

Shanghai Municipal Police.

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Central Police

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REPORT ON the Chinese Military situation.

Made by D.S.I. Brewster

FILED
Forwarded by

Chief Detective Inspector

Sir

The unrest which appears to be spreading throughout the Chinese Empire appears at last, to be affecting the local military situation. It has been a matter of surprise to me that the troops around Shanghai have kept quiescent for so long as they have done in view of the many temptations that have been put in the way of their Commanders by the Rebel Party. Since the "New Year there has been many rumours of intended attacks on the Arsenal and trouble among the troops and as these rumours did not materialize, a feeling of security and confidence in the loyalty of the troops has formulated in the minds of the Residents of the Settlement. During the last few days however, there has been indication that a mutiny among the troops is among the possibilities in the near future. The gravity of the situation which would arise in the event of a mutiny is obvious and I venture to suggest that the Settlement Volunteer authorities be warned in order that they may be in a position to take immediate steps on short notice. A mutiny among troops is nearly always more or less improvised and it is therefore almost impossible to find out beforehand the time or place contemplated by the ringleaders to commence operations. In all probability the next trouble at the Arsenal will start with dramatic suddenness and, if successful, will be followed up by the occupation by the Rebels of the Arsenal and neighbouring forts. As the Rebels will in all probability be unable to control the troops in the event of a successful rising the safety of the Settlement will be in danger and I therefore respectfully suggest that the above probabilities be brought to the notice of the proper authorities.

Yours faithfully
D. S. I. Brewster

W. S. Brewster
S. I.